

# the marquee • act 3 • scene 2

DECEMBER 1976

## Student Involvement In American Theatre Association

### A Word From AKT Student Representative

Dating as far back as a 1947 issue of *Theatre News* students have been sought as participants in ATA. There were several conventions around 1950 where entire days were devoted to students' and graduate schools' concerns. Things stayed much as they were until the early seventies. While student political protest was receiving much news media coverage, the leadership of ATA decided that it would be appropriate if UCTA's Student Advisory Council be expanded in representation and scope. The result was the American Theatre Student League within the overall structure of ATA.

The ATSL was not set-up to be a separate division, but to be intra-associational and cross-divisional; and, not to be tied solely to one of the divisions of the Association. The resultant creature was neither fish or fowl, but beef for which the Association had no category. ATSL is neither a division nor a program; but a special representational unit within the Association with a large constituency.

The ultimate goal of the League is to foster the exchange of ideas and information between students and other segments of the profession/industry. The objectives by which the goal is sought are:

1. To represent students to the Association Board of Directors.
2. To be a caucus group within the Association.
3. To help provide services for students through the Association.

The League accomplishes these objectives by various means:

1. The League has student-member liaisons with the various divisions, regions, committees and programs of the Association.
2. In the past year the League has attempted to attend officially as many as possible of the American College Theatre Festival state and regional festivals and the Association-wide regional conventions. In doing so, the League listens and learns from those it serves.
3. Each year the League has a representative on the Convention Planning Committee. This person tries to inspire some student-related programs for the convention and heads-up the local arrangements in locating inexpensive places to eat and lodge so that hopefully more students can afford to attend.
4. The League seeks also to have programming and special arrangements for students at the state and regional conventions. Recently two programs of this nature were "Academic and Career Counseling of the Theatre Student—Are Professors Doing Their Job?", and a "Theatre Careers Symposium".

The ATSL was never set-up to be a separate "student ghetto" of ATA, but rather an instigator of student involvement in the Association. For some strange reason professors on the local campus, when taken as a whole, are not encouraging their students to seek affiliation with their profession's professional organization or to use that organization's conventions (state, regional, national and ACTF festivals) and various other convocations as learning experiences. If a theatre educator considers him/herself a professional, why doesn't he/she consider his/her students pre-professionals?

In most states, law students join the state bar, medical students join some form of the AMA, business students join a variety of commerce groups such as the American Marketing Association. What makes theatre students any less pre-professional than those mentioned above?

In 1973-'74 the Music Education National Conference had a student membership of 19,443 with a total of 661 local campus chapters. This year ATA has a student membership around 1,400 with only a handful of chapters. Apparently the music folks have been doing something that the theatre folks haven't.

The local campus chapter which ATSL offers as an opportunity to the local school is one of the easiest methods of involvement in the industry's professional organization.

These chapters are not dictated to in terms of their functions at the local level. The way to form a campus chapter is to: (1) Get at least five students to join ATA; (2) Hold a meeting and elect yourselves a President, Vice-President, and Secretary; (3) Petition the national ATSL Secretary for recognition. (The ATSL Secretary's address can be had from the national office of ATA,); and, (3) Within a few weeks you will receive a letter from the national ATSL President recognizing the local chapter with the formal charter to follow.

Just a few of the activities which the local campus chapter can have are:

- The Chapter at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Campus has sponsored day long symposia with wine and cheese parties afterwards. The symposia gave a chance for theatre people from all over the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to get together and meet local professionals who attended as guests of the chapter.
- The chapter at Brigham Young University sponsors trips to the regional convention and regional ACTF festival.
- The chapter at Florida State University has compiled information on other theatre programs around the nation who would exchange materials with them and edited and published the theatre school newsletter.

In short, there are a great many opportunities for students to enhance their education by activity in ATA. But students do not tend to join their profession's organization on their own and have to be encouraged by their professors and teachers to become active.

It is hoped that those educators who read this will take heed and inform their students. What about using the first day of class of each term (when no one wants to lecture and no one wants to listen anyway) to discuss career dimensions of the course and theatre as a whole and to encourage those students who will pursue theatre degrees to join and become active in ATA.

John Boldenow  
Emporia KSC  
President, ATSL

# DIVISION NEWS

## RELIGION & THEATRE

Norman J. Fedder of Kansas State University has been quite active in developing programs in religion and theatre in his positions as President of the Kansas Association for the Religious Communities, the Arts, and the American Revolution (KARCAAR); First Vice-President of the Ecumenical Council for Drama and Other Arts (ECDA); and Chairperson for the Religious Theatre Project of the American Theatre Association.

KARCAAR is attempting to develop communication between Kansas artists and religionists. Dr. Fedder would appreciate hearing from anyone interested in this interrelationship. A meeting on Religion and the Arts will be part of the schedule of the Associated Community Arts Councils of Kansas convention in Topeka, March 4, 5. Annual workshops in this area are a goal of the association. Attempts are being made to fund a professional as executive director. Dr. Fedder attended a meeting of the theatre directors of the Associated Colleges of Kansas (McPherson, Kansas Wesleyan, Bethel, Tabor, Bethany, Sterling)—six church-related colleges—to develop religious theatre activities among these schools. He is developing a Religion and Theatre Workshop for the AKT convention in Topeka.

ECDA is planning their annual Workshop in Religion and the Arts for the last week in July at the Air Force Academy chapels in Colorado Springs, Colorado. ECDA is a ten year old national organization devoted to stimulating arts activities in the religious community. This summer's theme is **Theology into Art**. There will be workshops in all areas of the arts culminating in four creative worship services—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish—in the chapels at the end of the week. Dr. Fedder will direct the Jewish worship workshop. The cost for tuition, room, and board is quite reasonable. All those interested write to: Mrs. Wilma Ringstrom—9103 Queenston Drive—St. Louis, Missouri 63126. Mrs. Ringstrom will be happy to provide you with information describing ECDA.

The Religious Theatre Project of ATA is planning a pre-convention workshop in Chicago at churches and synagogues in the area. There will be performances of religious theatre companies, panels, and workshops in the convention proper. (August 14-17). A newsletter, an inventory of religious theatre companies and educational programs, and a bibliography of plays are among the priorities of the project.

Dr. Fedder has established a program of Religious Theatre studies in the Theatre Program at Kansas State. Students may prepare themselves for work as theatre directors in churches and synagogues or church-related colleges. B. S., B. A., and M. A. degrees are offered by the department. Dr. Fedder is developing a readers theatre touring group—The Kansas Heritage Theatre—to relate to the program in dramatizing issues central to religion, from the point of view of ethnic heritage.

Please write to Dr. Norman J. Fedder—Speech Department—Kansas State University—Manhattan, Kansas 66506—for further information or interest in participation in any of these activities and programs.

## PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

A note from John Holly, Divisional chairperson for the Professional Theatre Division of AKT:

First, I feel an explanation or definition of the Professional Theatre Division of AKT will help to clarify who can join, and how the Division may differ from the others in AKT.

The Professional Theatre Division is made up of organizations that pay the personnel involved (staff, cast, and crew), and that charge admission to their productions, but which are not already a College, University, or Community theatre. This definition opens the door to many organizations which are not completely "Union" houses.

Music Theatre of Wichita falls into the Division because it is professionally structured (organization, staff, schedules, etc.) and meets the above requirements. Yet, Music Theatre of Wichita is non-profit, educationally associated with WSU, Friends University, and the Wichita Public Schools, and civically supported by the Community. Still, because we are not a "school", and because we don't just produce Children's Theatre, and because we do hire professionals as well as students and members of the community, we then become "professional" by AKT standards.

The Professional Division is open to new membership, particularly to individuals who are making (or attempting to make) their living in theatre. Also, until AKT should decide to add another division, Dinner Theatres would certainly fall into the professional division.

## KCTC

Okay, Community Theatre People, get out your calendars and circle the dates March 4-6, 1977.

That's when the AKT/KCTC Convention will be held in Topeka. That's also when our state-wide community theatre festival (FACT '77) will be held.

It's really a wonderful opportunity to find resources, support, and challenges for the year ahead.

For example, we will have as guests at the Convention the President-Elect of the American Theatre Association (ATA), Dale Huffington, and the current President of the American Community Theatre Association (ACTA), David Young, two super people you will be glad you got to know.

Our Keynote speaker is Mordecai Gorelik, noted professional scene designer of the twenties and thirties, author of **New Theatres For Old**, and former head of the theatre program at Southern Illinois University.

Dr. Nat Eek, Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Oklahoma University, has accepted our invitation to conduct a session on business management, his specialty area.

We will have a group session devoted to exploring how we make decisions in community theatre.

Sessions for actors, directors, and tech people are also on the agenda.

So are performances.

Community theatre people came in large numbers last year—as a result, we have already begun to build the relationships with one another that provide the support, encouragement, questioning, challenging that we all (and through us, our groups) thrive on as we grow toward excellence.

You need to make your plans now.

Clear your calendars, line up your sitters, check the tread on your tires. And of course we expect that you will arrange to have any possible crises happen between now and March 1st.

If you're long on wishing you could but short on the cash that makes it possible, sponsor a garage sale, or a bake sale, or a car wash and send yourself and a friend with the proceeds.

Above all, come.

We need each other and can learn from each other, but not until we get together will we realize how much.

See you in March. Meantime, Happy Holidays!

## COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE THEATRE

The Executive Board of AKT welcomes a new member! Kevin Alexander of Allen County Community College is the new chairperson of the Community and Junior College Division. He is encouraging Community and Junior College faculty and students to attend the AKT convention in March and will be contacting the community and junior colleges before then. Congratulations Kevin!

## OOPS!

The editor of the **Marquee** wishes to apologize to Ms. Twink Lynch and Ms. Shirley Windhorst for the mistaken addresses in the October issue of the **Marquee**. They should be corrected as follows:

Ms. Twink Lynch  
1334 Lakeside Dr.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Ms. Shirley Windhorst  
602 Woodland  
Minneapolis, Kansas 67467

# Plan Now To Attend The

## ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

### Annual Convention

March 4, 5, 6

Topeka, Kansas

Registration forms, a convention program, and further information on the convention will be sent to you early in February.

#### AMERICAN THEATRE ASSOCIATION REPORT

AKT is one of a dozen-or-so duly recognized state arms (or branches) of the American Theatre Association. We have a dynamic membership that ably represents the many kinds of theatres found in the state of Kansas. In our short history we have assembled a record we can be proud of. Our conventions are in many respects as exciting as the national, and our plans and proposals are going ahead as if nothing can possibly interfere with their successful completion.

While our principle focus understandably is inward, I think we also have to keep our eye tuned to the national picture in our field; for it is certain that whatever problems we may have in Kansas are shared by each of the other state organizations as well as the national itself. There is much we can learn from the way other states have tackled the job and succeeded (or failed). At the recent Los Angeles convention of ATA I attended (unofficially) a meeting of the presidents of state organizations and found out we are right there in the forefront of the states development. It is especially interesting to note that at this very meeting the ATA Annual Business Meeting passed a rather elaborate set of by-law revisions establishing, among other structural changes, an Assembly of States—a whole new legislative body, established to reflect the emergence of states organizations. The Assembly will elect one member to the ATA Board of Directors for every ten states represented. Together with the other changes voted, this by-law revision helps to bring the governance of ATA into a more responsive position to the geographic as well as subject distribution of the people in ATA since the Assembly is composed of three representatives from each recognized state organization: the president, one member appointed by the Board of AKT and one member elected by the AKT membership.

Watch ATA Theatre News for a full explanation of these changes in structure which affect us all.

Already the next ATA Program Committee is at work planning next August's convention in Chicago. Plan to attend. It will be a landmark convention for states' organizations—the first where we will have an important voice in what goes on.

Jed Davis  
Past President  
ATA and AKT

#### ANNOUNCING KANSANS' TIDBITS

Did you know that . . .

. . . Marianne Pepoon and Chip Shattuck are directing Paola Civic Theatre's first Children's Theatre production? **The Brave Little Tailor** will be presented in Paola in the Ursuline Auditorium on Dec. 4 and at Louisburg High School and Osawatimie High School on Dec. 11.

. . . Fort Hays Kansas State College has two Children's Theatre touring companies. One group is called Merrymakers, Inc. and they present a group of four children's stories that they adapted for the stage. The second group is called The Suess Troupe and is presenting a series of Dr. Suess stories. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. They are also being supported by the Northwest Kansas Library system. They

have toured to the following towns in Kansas: Larned, Lincoln, Sharon Springs, Quinter, Hoxie, Oakley, Goodland, Colby, Oberlin, Norton, Bird City, St. Francis, Tipton, Cawker City, Ellis.

. . . Marymount College is taking a Broadway tour in January. There will be about thirty students going on the tour and they will see 14 shows ranging from opera at the Met, to **Chorus Line** and **Chicago** on Broadway. A high school workshop and a high school teacher's workshop will be offered this summer at Marymount College in conjunction with the Sunflower Summer Theatre program. Contact the theatre department at the college for more information.

#### CEMREL

CEMREL is a national educational laboratory established June 15, 1966, under the Cooperative Research Act to improve education for children throughout the nation.

Concern for the aesthetic dimension of life led CEMREL, Inc., to begin a long range curriculum development program in aesthetic education for students, kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Aesthetic Education Program deals with all of the arts—dance, literature, music, theatre, and the visual arts—and is intended as a part of the general education of every child. The program began in 1967 with a scholarly review of theory, philosophy, and research related to aesthetic education. A team of scholars, curriculum developers, and evaluators are now creating and producing learning packages for aesthetic education which are based upon the guidelines.

A learning package takes about 10 hours to teach, and approximately 10 packages are to be developed for each instructional level. A package includes a collection of teacher and learner instructions and supporting materials such as films, tapes, records, puzzles, games, and graphics. The system of "units of instruction" was deliberately chosen to allow as much individualized learning as possible and to provide the greatest flexibility of arrangement. From a set of packages, teachers or students can choose a course of study which fits the needs, values, and organization of the school. The packages provide both teacher and student with all the instructional resources which only the well-supported arts specialists had access to formerly.

For General Information about CEMREL contact:

(Mrs.) Verna Smith  
Public Information Officer  
3120 59th St.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63139  
(314) 781-2900

#### THEATRE AROUND THE STATE: '76-'77

ABILENE COMMUNITY THEATRE, ABILENE

**The Savage Dilemma** - Jan. 20, 22.

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CONCORDIA

**The Dancing Donkey** - Feb. 24-26. Drama Department Production - Mar. 30-31. One Act Plays - May 10-11.

MARYMOUNT COLLEGE, SALINA

**Peter Pan** - Mar. 3-6.

MUSIC THEATRE OF WICHITA, INC., WICHITA

**Camelot** - June 8-12. **Where's Charley?** - June 22-26. **Guys & Dolls** - July 6-10. **Roar of the Greasepaint** - July 20-24. **South Pacific** - Aug. 3-7.

PAOLA CIVIC THEATRE, PAOLA

**Dracula** - Nov. 18-20. **The Brave Little Tailor** - Dec. 4, 11. **Anything Goes** - Jan. 28-30. **Brigadoon** - Feb. 17-19. **Bell, Book and Candle** - April. **You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown** - June. **Oklahoma** - July.

SAINT MARY COLLEGE, LEAVENWORTH

**Aesop's Fables** - Jan. 21-22. **No, No Nanette** - Apr. 21-23.

THE WAY OFF BROADWAY PLAYERS, DODGE CITY

**Our Town** - Jan. 20-22, 27-29.

#### GUEST CRITIC

Please add the following name to your list of guest critics:

Dr. Dennis Denning  
Division of Fine Arts  
Marymount College  
Salina, Kansas

We welcome additional names of individuals who are willing to serve as guest critics or provide expertise in a variety of production areas. Please send all names to the editor of the *Marquee*.

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COMPLETE THIS FORM  
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105 Malloy Hall  
Fort Hays Kansas State College  
Hays, Kansas 67601

## ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Dues: Regular	\$ 5.00	_____
Student	\$ 3.00	_____
Organization	\$15.00	_____

Division (check one):

\_\_\_\_ Community theatre    \_\_\_ New Membership  
\_\_\_\_ Childrens theatre  
\_\_\_\_ Professional theatre    \_\_\_ Renewal  
\_\_\_\_ Secondary School theatre  
\_\_\_\_ University & College theatre  
\_\_\_\_ Comm. & Jr. College theatre

\*Dues paid now apply to calendar year 1977.

Checks payable to:

ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE